Limits of compassion

By: Anonymus

I want to start off with the definition of compassion. It can be a noun, it has 3 syllables and 10 letters, its definition by the Webster dictionary is 'the consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it'. Does this mean compassion can only be felt when someone is in pain? If so, does the type of pain affect when compassion is given, whether it'd be physical or mental? Well when i used the search engine google it says this, "No, *compassion does not require physical or emotional pain to exist. While it often responds to suffering, compassion can also be felt in response to positive states, shared human joy, or simply recognizing another person's inherent worth.*" End quote. Thank you gemini.

From this there doesn't seem to be a limit for compassion...right? So then I asked another question,"Does *one's physical pain affect when compassion is given*?" The answer is NO! Then asked a third time "*does mental pain affect when compassion is given*?" Same answer. NO! So in conclusion, compassion is limitless and can be given at any time! Hurray! This is the best outcome, don't you think so? I thought so too, so I opened up my social media and decided to treat myself to some videos. Along the way I came across a video of a nun speaking about abortion, a seemingly grey topic, I think we all agree. But the topic wasn't her raging about clinics, the tabooness of the topic. Instead she spoke of the compassion that many believe comes with the decision of the procedure. She asks the question "compassion on who?" That made me re-think, does compassion really have no limits? So I opened the comments to find the answer I had been asking myself and search engines, family, even coworkers.

I found a comment that said and I quote "*on who? Compassion for the* WOMEN, *the thing that's already alive! And has a life! Has a job! Has experienced sadness and love and happiness and being scared! Abortions aren't for the baby. It's for the mother.*" end quote. This led me off to another question, "when does a baby begin experiencing? Or a better question " when does a baby begin to experience senses?" things like physical touch, sight, sound,maybe even taste. Apparently touch is first, around 8 weeks is when a baby begins to experience physical sensations. According to UT southwestern Medical center. So if touch is registered at 8 weeks, when do nerves begin to grow? By week 3 a central nervous system and peripheral nervous system begins to form. Says TeachMeAnatomy. 3 weeks is the beginning of it all and 8 weeks until it comes to fruition.

To many this may mean nothing, but to me it means a changed perspective and a new understanding of a word I thought was unshakeable in its meaning. Compassion is limitless when it comes to visible and expressed pain. But not to those who can express and

are unable to convey the same. I thought a person was a person, no matter how small. I guess I was wrong. The size matters most to those who were given the chance to grow. Compassion has a limit and this is it, it ends with the mother who carries this life. But it never continues to the babe that could have had a chance. This is the limit of compassion